National Endowment for the Arts

2004 GUIDE

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Cover Photo: Meg Saligman's mural *Common Threads* at Broad and Spring Garden Streets in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, part of Philadelphia's Mural Arts Program, which has been supported by the NEA.
Photo by Jack Ramsdale

Photo by Vance Jacobs

Chairman's Message

A question I encounter often as I travel across the country is, What is the NEA? The answer is that we are many things to many people. We have to be, because we exist to serve all Americans.

If you are affiliated with an arts organization, a state or local arts agency, or are yourself an artist, you may be intimately acquainted with us as a vital supporter of your creative contributions to American cultural life.

If you are a supporter of artistic offerings in your community, you may be well aware that the NEA awards more than 2,200 grants annually across the country, totaling nearly $100 million. Grantees then leverage our grants with seven times that amount in additional arts funding.

Or you may be only vaguely aware that the National Endowment for the Arts exists—even though you may have enjoyed any number of museums; orchestras; theater, opera, and dance companies; educational and community outreach; or accessibility programs that have been made possible by an investment from the NEA.

Large cities or small villages, urban or rural, all regions of the country, the NEA works to ensure that all Americans can enjoy the pleasure and transformative experiences that the arts can provide. This guide presents an overview of all the areas in which the NEA makes a difference: grantmaking and national initiatives, partnerships and research, accessibility and arts learning. What is the NEA? It is all these things and more, ensuring a nation in which artistic excellence is celebrated, supported, and available to all Americans. Because a great nation deserves great art.

Dana Gioia

Dana Gioia
Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

About Us

The National Endowment for the Arts, established by Congress in 1965 as an independent federal agency, is the official arts organization of the United States government. As the largest annual funder of the arts in the country, the NEA is dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts—both new and established, bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Through its grants and programs, the NEA brings great art to all fifty states and six U.S. jurisdictions including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

The NEA awards more than $100 million annually—investing in every state—which in turn generates more than $700 million in additional support. The Arts Endowment has played a substantial role in the development of folk arts, dance, theater, literature, opera, and other arts that Americans now enjoy.

Since its establishment, the NEA has awarded more than 120,000 grants, including early support for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial design competition, the Sundance Film Festival, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Spoleto Festival USA, PBS's *Great Performances* series, and the American Film Institute. For more than three and a half decades, the Arts Endowment has encouraged creativity through support of performances, exhibitions, festivals, artist residencies, and other arts projects throughout the country.

The Nancy Hanks Center at the Old Post Office Building in Washington, DC—home to the National Endowment for the Arts.

The NEA has supported programs such as Chamber Music Beginnings, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's program that brings New York area school children to concerts given by professional chamber music ensembles.
Photo by Steve J. Sherman

National Endowment for the Arts Funding

The National Endowment for the Arts awards matching grants to nonprofit organizations. In addition, it awards non-matching individual fellowships in literature and honorary fellowships in jazz and the folk and traditional arts. Forty percent of the Arts Endowment's funds go to the fifty-six state and jurisdictional arts agencies and the six regional arts organizations in support of arts projects in thousands of communities across the country.

All applications to the Arts Endowment are reviewed on the basis of artistic excellence and artistic merit. Applications generally receive three independent levels of review. First, they are reviewed by independent, national panels of artists and other arts experts. Panels make recommendations that are then forwarded to the National Council on the Arts.

The National Council on the Arts, the Arts Endowment's advisory body, comprises nationally and internationally renowned artists, distinguished scholars, arts patrons appointed by the President, and members of Congress. The Council reviews the applications and makes recommendations on which applications to fund. These recommendations are sent to the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Chairman reviews those applications and makes the final decision on all grant awards.

The following information provides an overview of our funding categories and other activities. Deadlines for funding opportunities are found in the back of this guide. For details and our application guidelines, please visit our Web site at **www.arts.gov**.

The Kronos Quartet (David Harrington, Jennifer Culp, John Sherba, and Hank Dutt) is an innovative string quartet whose body of work since its inception in 1973 is unparalleled in range and scope of expression. NEA has helped support their artistic excellence through grants for the commissioning and development of new work. Photo by Jay Blakesberg

Grants for Arts Projects

Grants for Arts Projects supports exemplary projects in dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, local arts agencies, media arts, museums, music, musical theater, opera, presenting, theater, visual arts, and multidisciplinary art forms.

Nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations; units of state or local government; and federally recognized tribal communities or tribes may apply. Applicants may be arts organizations, local arts agencies, arts service organizations, school districts, and other organizations that can help advance the goals of the Arts Endowment.

To be eligible, an applicant organization must:

- Be nonprofit, tax-exempt.
- Have a three-year history of programming.
- Meet reporting requirements on any previous Arts Endowment grants.

Each year, an organization may apply on its own behalf only once to one of the art disciplines or fields listed above. In addition to its own application, an organization may be a part of a consortium application; serve as a fiscal agent for another organization; or, in the case of a parent organization such as a university or cultural complex, apply on behalf of a separately identifiable and independent component.

Assistance is not available for general operating or seasonal support; the creation of new organizations; the construction, purchase, or renovation of facilities; or directly for individual elementary or secondary schools.

The Grants for Arts Projects guidelines outline support that is available in the following three categories:

Access to Artistic Excellence: To foster and preserve excellence in the arts and provide access to the arts for all Americans. This category encourages and supports artistic creativity, preserves our diverse cultural heritage, and makes the arts more widely available in communities throughout the country. Typical projects include the commissioning and development of new work, the presentation of performances or exhibitions at home or on tour, the documentation and preservation of significant art works or cultural traditions, the publication and dissemination of work important to the field, and the professional training of artists. The Arts Endowment is particularly interested in projects that reach and involve new audiences.

Grants generally range from $5,000 to $100,000.

A performer at the Council Tree Pow Wow & Cultural Festival, an event that celebrates the heritage of the Ute Tribes of Colorado and Utah. The festival has been supported by an NEA Challenge America grant to increase marketing efforts that will bring in new audiences to the event and the Delta, Colorado community, located five hours from the nearest metropolitan area.
Photo courtesy of Council Tree Pow Wow & Cultural Festival

Challenge America Fast-Track Review Grants: To enable small and mid-sized organizations to extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations—those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. An expedited application review allows applicants to learn whether they have been recommended for a grant more quickly than in the Arts Endowment's other categories.

In this category the focus is on simple, straightforward local projects that involve experienced professional artists and arts professionals. Projects may include exhibits, readings, performances, or screenings that feature guest artists in community settings; professionally directed public arts projects such as murals, sculptures, or environmental art; apprenticeships with master artists; local cultural festivals; cultural district revitalization; and other projects that highlight the arts in community development and tourism.

All grants are for $10,000.

Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth to advance learning in the arts for children and youth. This category funds projects that help children and youth acquire knowledge, skills, and understanding of the arts consistent with national, state, or local arts education standards. It also funds projects that investigate and disseminate best practices and rigorous research that examines the effect of arts education on the cognitive and social development of children and youth. Projects may take place in school-based or community-based settings.

[illegible] through [illegible] and support opportunities both in school and outside the regular school day [illegible] and power to [illegible] art.

Grants generally range from $5,000 to [illegible]

The American String Teachers Association [illegible]

Literature Fellowships

Through Literature Fellowships awarded to published creative writers and translators of exceptional talent in the areas of prose and poetry, the Arts Endowment advances its goal of encouraging and supporting artistic creativity and preserving our diverse cultural heritage. Literature Fellowships in creative writing enable recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel, and general career advancement. These non-matching grants are for $20,000, and are the only competitive, non-nominated awards given to individual artists. This program operates on a two-year cycle with fellowships in prose available one year and fellowships in poetry available the next.

Winners of the Literature Fellowship since 1990 have also been 40 of the 60 recipients of the National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, and Pulitzer Prize in fiction and poetry. All but three received these awards after they were recognized by the NEA with a Literature Fellowship, leaving no doubt about the artistic excellence and ability of our grantees.

Literature Fellowships also are given for translation projects, enabling recipients to translate work from other languages into English. The art of literary translation has made available to the American public some of the most important writing in the world, from Homer to Gabriel García Márquez. Non-matching grants are awarded, depending upon the artistic excellence and merit of the project, in the amounts of $10,000 or $20,000.

Lifetime Honors

On behalf of the American people, the federal government recognizes outstanding achievement in the arts through the National Medal of Arts, a Presidential award; NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships; and NEA National Heritage Fellowships. Information on nominating candidates for these awards can be found on the NEA Web site at **www.arts.gov**.

The National Medal of Arts is the highest award given to artists and arts patrons by the federal government. It is awarded by the President of the United States to individuals or groups who are deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in the United States.

Since 1985, more than 200 extraordinary patrons and artists in the fields of visual, performing, and literary arts have been honored. With this medal, the President recognizes the wealth and depth of creative expression of America's artists. Annually, a vast number of nominations are submitted from citizens across the country for consideration by the National Council on the Arts, which in turn submits its recommendations to the White House.

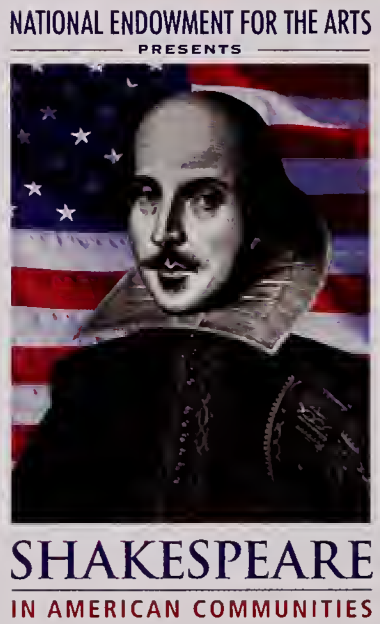
NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships are the highest honors that our government bestows upon jazz musicians. The fellowships recognize these artists for their lifelong contributions to and mastery of jazz. Up to five non-matching fellowships of $25,000 each are awarded annually on the basis of nominations. Four of the awards are given in categories such as rhythm instrumentalist, solo instrumentalist, pianist, vocalist, and arranger/composer. The fifth is given to a jazz advocate who has made a major contribution to the appreciation, knowledge, and advancement of jazz, such as a writer, patron, or presenter.

NEA National Heritage Fellowships recognize the recipients' artistic excellence and support their continuing contributions to America's folk and traditional arts. As part of its efforts to honor and preserve our nation's diverse cultural heritage, the National Endowment for the Arts annually awards up to 10 non-matching fellowships of $20,000 each on the basis of nominations. In addition, one fellowship, named after noted folklorist and former NEA Folk & Traditional Arts Director Bess Lomax Hawes, is presented to those who have made a major contribution to the excellence, vitality, and public appreciation of the folk and traditional arts through teaching, collecting, advocacy, or preservation work.

2003 National Heritage Fellow Manoochehr Sadeghi of Los Angeles, California performing on the *santur*, a Persian hammered dulcimer, at the annual awards ceremony and concert in Washington, DC.
Photo by Jim Saah

national initiatives

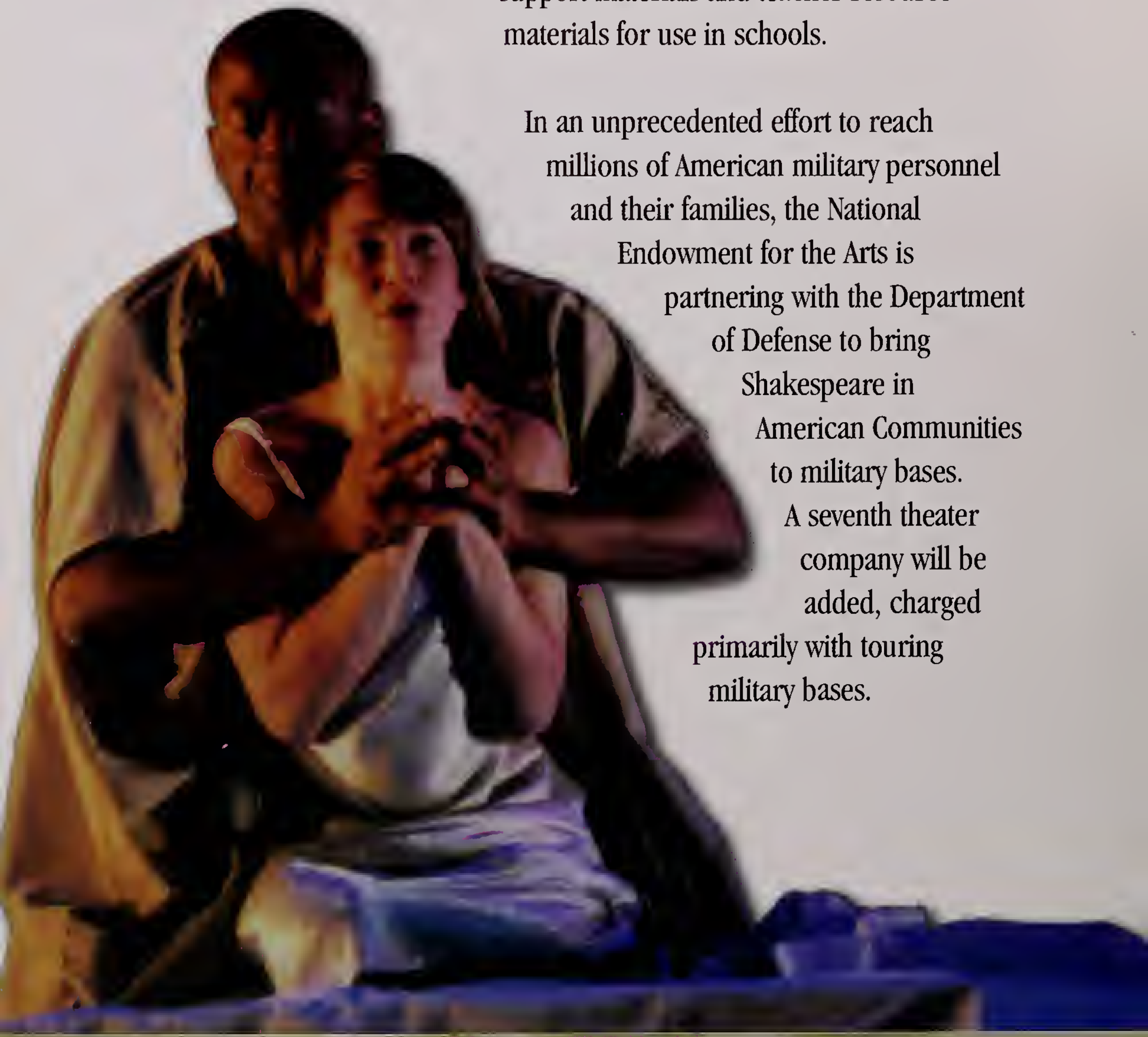
National Initiatives are model programs of indisputable artistic merit and broad national reach. Through these initiatives, the American people will have the opportunity to celebrate American creativity and experience the best of their culture.



Shakespeare in American Communities is a nationwide, 100-community tour that will bring to stages across the United States the greatest tragedies and comedies ever written. Small and mid-sized communities in all 50 states will participate, including at least 16 military bases.

The centerpiece of Shakespeare in American Communities is performances by six professional theater companies that will tour the country from September 2003 through November 2004. In addition to performances, the tours include artistic and technical workshops, symposia about the productions, and educational programs in local schools. The Arts Endowment provides support materials and teacher resource materials for use in schools.

In an unprecedented effort to reach millions of American military personnel and their families, the National Endowment for the Arts is partnering with the Department of Defense to bring Shakespeare in American Communities to military bases. A seventh theater company will be added, charged primarily with touring military bases.



Opening night performance of *Othello* by the Aquila Theatre Company in New London, Connecticut, with Lloyd Notice as Othello and Kathryn Merry as Desdemona.
Photo by A. Vincent Scarano

NEA JAZZ MASTERS

The Arts Endowment is expanding the reach of its **NEA Jazz Masters** program by broadening public recognition of the NEA Jazz Masters, enhancing the public's knowledge of jazz, and placing a brighter spotlight on these great musicians.

In April 2004, the awards ceremony will be televised nationally on Black Entertainment Television and BET Jazz. The Arts Endowment is producing programs of music and interviews with NEA Jazz Masters in 5-minute and 60-minute formats for distribution to public radio stations. In addition, the Arts Endowment collaborated with the Verve Music Group on a commemorative two-CD set of recordings by NEA Jazz Masters.

A 50-state national tour of NEA Jazz Masters is also being planned for 2004–2005. Each NEA Jazz Master engagement will include educational activities such as master classes, meet-the-artist sessions, lecture/demonstrations, open rehearsals, and pre- or post-performance discussions with the artists.

NEA Jazz Master Clark Terry (second from left) performs with the Heath Brothers (including NEA Jazz Masters Jimmy and Percy Heath) during the 2004 NEA Jazz Masters awards ceremony in New York City.
Photo by Tom Pich

Through the NEA's Arts on Radio and Television grants, the agency supports quality arts programming by organizations such as Thirteen/WNET. Thirteen/WNET produces programs such as *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, and *Dancing*, an eight-part series that examined the traditions of dance in communities around the world, including such performances as *The Sleeping Beauty* by the Corp de Ballet of the Kirov Ballet. Photo by Geoff Dunlop, courtesy of Thirteen/WNET

Leadership Initiatives

The Arts Endowment takes an active role in developing and carrying out hallmark projects of national significance in the arts. The following are examples of the types of initiatives the NEA undertakes:

The Arts on Radio and Television supports projects for radio and television arts programs that are intended for national broadcast. Through this category, the National Endowment for the Arts seeks to make the excellence and diversity of the arts widely available to the American public. An organization may submit, or be involved as the primary consortium partner in, no more than two applications for FY 2005 funding under the Arts on Radio and Television guidelines and the Arts Endowment's Grants for Arts Projects guidelines. Grants generally range from $20,000 to $200,000.

The Folk & Traditional Arts Infrastructure Initiative advances the Arts Endowment's goal to preserve our nation's diverse cultural heritage by strengthening the state and regional infrastructure of support for the folk and traditional arts. Each state or region is limited to one application. Grants generally range from $10,000 to $50,000.

The Mayors' Institute on City Design is an Arts Endowment leadership initiative established in 1986 that provides an opportunity for mayors and design professionals to work together to address civic design and development issues related to their respective cities.

NEA Partners

State & Regional. In partnership with the fifty-six state and jurisdictional arts agencies and six regional arts organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts provides federal support for projects that benefit local communities. The Partnership Agreements for the state arts agencies include arts education, arts in underserved communities, and Challenge America components. The regional arts organizations, each representing a geographic grouping of states, assist the Arts Endowment in distributing funds nationally. Those Partnership Agreements include NEA Regional Touring Initiative and Challenge America components.

Federal. The NEA works with more than twenty other federal agencies on projects that provide opportunities for thousands of Americans to experience quality arts programming throughout the country. These joint projects help to expand the reach and impact of federal arts dollars, and provide a national model for the types of partnerships the NEA encourages at the state and local levels. These partnerships include initiatives with agencies such as the Department of Education and the Department of Defense.

International. The National Endowment for the Arts collaborates with other funders to bring the benefits of international exchange to arts organizations, artists, and audiences nationwide. The Arts Endowment's support of international activities showcases U.S. arts abroad and broadens the scope of experience of American artists. International partnerships help increase worldwide recognition of the excellence, diversity, and vitality of the arts of the United States, and help American artists and arts organizations develop international ties that strengthen the many art forms of the United States.

Jessica Cressey of Dancing People Company in the company's performance at the International Festival of Modern Choreography in Belarus in 2001. Dancing People Company was the first American dance company to ever appear at the festival, and was supported through the Fund for U.S. Artists at International Festivals and Exhibitions. This fund is made possible through the NEA, U.S. Department of State, Rockefeller Foundation, and Pew Charitable Trusts.
Photo by Vladimir Bazan

National Endowment for the Arts
2002 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts
National Endowment for the Arts
2002 Annual Report
National Endowment for the Arts
NEA Jazz Masters
America's Highest Honor in Jazz

Publications

In order to better communicate to the public the exemplary work the NEA supports and provides, the Communications Office works with other agency offices to create publications, free to the public, that highlight successful projects and programs. These publications can be ordered on the NEA Web site, **www.arts.gov**.

Recent publications include a 20th anniversary celebration of the NEA National Heritage Fellowships, which includes a history of the program, profiles of 56 Fellows, and a listing of awardees by state; a publication on the NEA Jazz Masters program, with biographies of all 73 award recipients; and *Learning Through the Arts*, a guide to the NEA's arts learning initiatives, including a brief history of the NEA's arts education research and examples of successful projects and programs the Arts Endowment has supported.

Research

The Office of Research and Analysis (ORA) supports the Chairman and NEA staff with statistical and other information about the agency's applications and awards, including grantee and applicant profiles, the distribution of awards by state and artistic discipline, and analysis of overall trends in NEA funding. One of ORA's major projects is a geographic database that provides a comprehensive picture of the broad reach of NEA-supported activities. ORA also issues periodic public reports on significant topics affecting artists and arts organizations. The office's most recent reports include *Raising the Barre: The Geographic, Financial, and Economic Trends of Nonprofit Dance Companies* and *Changing the Beat: A Study of the Worklife of Jazz Musicians*. In addition, every 10 years ORA prepares the *Survey of Public Participation in the Arts*, which presents highlights from a national survey and the U.S. Census that measure participation in arts activities through attendance at live events, watching or listening through broadcast and recorded media, and personal performance or creation of art.

Universal design—the design process that makes products and spaces functional for all people—has been championed by the NEA's AccessAbility Office. The National Building Museum in Washington, DC used universal design features to create its exhibition, "Capitol Sights Not Always Seen," which among other elements included pedestals with recessed bases to provide clear floor space for persons in wheelchairs to approach the exhibits.
Photo courtesy of the Center for Universal Design

Other Arts Endowment Activities

The Office of AccessAbility was established in 1976 as the advocacy and technical assistance arm of the Arts Endowment for people with disabilities, older Americans, veterans, and people living in institutions. The office works in myriad ways to assist the Arts Endowment and its grantees in making arts programs more available to underserved segments of our citizenry.

Through the ***Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act of 1975*** (20 U.S.C. 971), which is administered by the Arts Endowment, the agency provides insurance coverage for objects in international exhibitions.

The **Save America's Treasures** program was created—through a collaboration of the National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Institute of Museum and Library Services, and National Endowment for the Arts—to protect the nation's threatened cultural resources. The program provides funding to nonprofit organizations for the preservation or conservation of nationally significant collections of cultural artifacts and works of art. Since 2000, the NEA has awarded 37 Save America's Treasures grants, totaling more than seven million dollars, in 23 states and the District of Columbia.

Throughout 2003 and 2004, the National Endowment for the Arts is conducting **grant workshops** across the country to provide valuable guidance on how local arts organizations can improve their chances of winning a competitive grant from the NEA. The workshops are done in cooperation with members of Congress, who act as host, and with organizational help from state arts agencies. The goal of the workshops is to extend federal support of the arts into smaller communities and more rural areas that might not normally apply for NEA grants.

DEADLINES

Grants for Arts Projects

Access to Artistic Excellence

There are two application deadlines. The types of projects eligible under each vary according to the field/discipline of the project as outlined below. For further information, contact the staff for the appropriate field/discipline or view the NEA Web site at **www.arts.gov:**

Field/Discipline	**Application Postmark Deadline: March 15, 2004** Earliest Project Start Date: January 1, 2005	**Application Postmark Deadline: August 16, 2004** Earliest Project Start Date: June 1, 2005
Dance **202/682-5739**	Commissions, Regional/National Tours, Home Performances, Presentations, Residencies, Services to the Field	Outreach, Preservation, Media and Technology
Design **202/682-5796**	Innovation	Stewardship
Folk & Traditional Arts **202/682-5678 or 682-5726**	Presentation of Living Cultural Heritage, Touring, Media	Heritage, Preservation, Outreach, Services to the Field
Literature **202/682-5771**	Literary Publishing	Audience Development, Professional Development
Local Arts Agencies **202/682-5586**	Services to the Field, Subgranting for Constituent Service Activities, Cultural Planning	Performing Arts Events/Visual Arts Exhibitions, Artist Residencies/Commissions, Documentation/ Conservation of Public and Monumental Art, Subgranting for Constituent Programming Activities
Media Arts: Film/Radio/Television **202/682-5742**	Exhibition, Distribution, Preservation	Workshops/Conferences/ Residencies, Facilities Access, Production, Publications, Services to the Field
Multidisciplinary **202/682-5658**	Creation and Presentation, Residencies, Artistic Training, Technology & New Media	Access and Engagement, Arts Publications, Interviews/Oral Histories, Preservation, Services to the Field
Museums **202/682-5576**	Special Exhibitions, Residencies, Commissions, Public Art, Services to the Field	Conservation, Documentation, Collections, Public Programs

Field/Discipline	**Application Postmark Deadline: March 15, 2004** Earliest Project Start Date: January 1, 2005	**Application Postmark Deadline: August 16, 2004** Earliest Project Start Date: June 1, 2005
Music Organizations with names that begin A through L **202/682-5590** Organizations with names that begin M through Z **202/682-5487**	Performances, Presentations, Commissions, Residencies, Professional Development, Services to the Field	Touring, Outreach, Recordings, Preservation, Intergenerational Education Projects
Musical Theater **202/682-5509**	Creation of New Work, 2004–05 Musical Theater Production	Outreach, Training, Services to the Field, 2005–06 Musical Theater Production
Opera **202/682-5600**	ALL opera projects	N/A
Presenting **202/682-5658**	Presentation, Commissioning/Producing, Collaborations	Access and Engagement, Preservation, Services to the Field
Theater Organizations with names that begin A through H **202/682-5509** Organizations with names that begin I through Q **202/682-5511** Organizations with names that begin R through Z **202/682-5020**	Creation of New Work, 2004–05 Theater Production	Outreach, Training, Services to the Field, 2005–06 Theater Production
Visual Arts **202/682-5555**	Exhibitions, Residencies, Publications, Commissions, Public Art	Conservation, Documentation, Services to the Field, Public Programs

Grants for Arts Projects

Challenge America Fast-Track Review Grants

Application Postmark Deadline: June 1, 2004
Earliest Project Start Date: January 1, 2005
For information, contact the staff at 202/682-5700.

Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth

Application Postmark Deadline: June 14, 2004
Earliest Project Start Date: June 1, 2005

For information, contact the Learning in the Arts staff for the field/discipline below that is most appropriate for your project:

Design, Literature, Media Arts, Museums, Visual Arts	202/682-5521
Folk & Traditional Arts, Local Arts Agencies, Multidisciplinary, Presenting	202/682-5690
Musical Theater, Theater, Opera, Music organizations with names that begin A through L	202/682-5688
Dance, Music organizations with names that begin M through Z	202/682-5044

Literature Fellowships

Creative Writing Fellowships

Application Postmark Deadline: March 1, 2005
Earliest Project Start Date: January 1, 2006

Translation Projects

Application Postmark Deadline: January 10, 2005
Earliest Project Start Date: November 1, 2005
For information, contact the Literature staff at 202/682-5034.

Lifetime Honors

The National Medal of Arts

Nominations for the 2004 National Medal of Arts can be made on the Arts Endowment's Web site from January 15–April 16, 2004.

NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships

Nomination Postmark Deadline: January 31, 2005
For information, contact the Music staff at 202/682-5438.

NEA National Heritage Fellowships

Nomination Postmark Deadline: October 1, 2004
For information, contact the Folk & Traditional Arts staff at 202/682-5428.

Leadership Initiatives

The Arts on Radio and Television

Application Postmark Deadline: September 10, 2004
Earliest Project Start Date: May 1, 2005
For information, contact the Arts Endowment's Media Arts staff at 202/682-5738.

The Folk & Traditional Arts Infrastructure Initiative

Application Postmark Deadline: October 1, 2004
Earliest Project Start Date: July 1, 2005
For information, contact the Folk & Traditional Arts staff at 202/682-5678 or 682-5726.

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? Individuals who do not use conventional print may contact the Arts Endowment's Office for AccessAbility to obtain this publication in an alternate format. Telephone: 202/682-5532

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A Great Nation Deserves Great Art.

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